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Stone, Robert J.

To: Powers, David M.
Cc: Lester, Frank G.; Matthew Tilley; Nelson, Byron (WKA); Stone, Robert J.
Subject: Massachusetts, Connecticut, & Rhode Island-week of 5/15/98

Rhode Island-No new activity to report

Connecticut-The AG, using political allies, did secure his first ordinance restricting advertising of tobacco products in the Town of Orange, CT. on 5/13. Although arguments were presented that either the 4th circuit would rule on the FDA advertising delayed from 8/28/97 or through a national or individual state settlement process, the tobacco industry would impose internal rules concerning advertising. We questioned why the AG, who help frame the national settlement and is suing the tobacco industry, had to request local communities to take action-why he was unable to do the same at the state level. Karen DeBartolo(wholesaler), a vending rep., one retailer, and Joe Graybars(A.C.L.U.) also spoke in addition to N.E.W.M.A. against the ordinance during the Public Hearing. Several local anti's supported the measure. The Board of Selectmen closed the hearing and immediately voted to enact the ordinance. Several field people observed the procedure.

This vote could influence our next Public Hearing in Bridgeport which will happen on 5/18 @ 7:00 pm but must then be referred back to the ordinance sub-committee.

Massachusetts-The Ch. 93 rules proposed by the AG will be the subject of a industry conference call on Friday, 5/15 @ 9:00 am. Our package to appx. 200 associations, chambers, and coalition partners have had few "returns to sender." I hope our follow-up calls will generate many speakers for the 5/20-21 Public Hearings.

Massachusetts local...

Monson-Town Meeting defeated the youth penalties(sec.#4) of the BOH regulations on Monday, 5/11 and asked the board to again review the entire regulation. On 7/1/98, most of the retail provisions will take effect which include a ban on vending and FSD's.

Hingham-On Tues., 5/12 the Public Hearing to go from 75% to 100% smoke-free in Hingham restaurants was continued until 6/9/98 to allow for submission of written comments. The MRA will meet with one member of the panel of 3 to provide additional information for the Board before the next meeting. Revisions to the retail regulations to make the penalties much more strict for retailers who sell to minors will also be discussed at the 6/9 meeting.

Marlborough-The BOH D&P show was not the success they had hoped for-many of the health boards that were invited failed to show-up. Moreover, when they said that the tobacco industry had chosen the restaurants as the battlefield, Bruce Potter was quick to remind them that THEY(tobacco control) were writing the regulations to include restaurants!

F.E.T.-Signs and postcards are being provided to retailers to increase consumer awareness and give them a vehicle to tell Congress that the tax hike is wrong;

this PM project is an addition to the excellent S/R mailer throughout the area.

New Hampshire-We have received the group list of Senators from Frank Lester and
his request to discuss targets, message, and message vehicle.

Best Regards,
Bob